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RE: Comments on Programmatic EIS/EIR

The document has not developed the required full range of alternatives and combinations needed to produce a viable solution to solve California water wars. Solutions are stuck in conventional storage and conveyance and pump and conveyance methodologies that provide no new needed vision. These solutions are biased against Northern California and require nothing from San Joaquin farmers, Southern California or metropolitan water users. This reality does not produce the political climate needed for a solution. The Alternatives do not provide the ecological or environmental improvements to reverse the current conditions. Furthermore by using untested scale increasing fish screens and reducing seasonal peak flushing flows by diverting this water to off stream or ground water storage, delta health and salmonid populations will be further jeopardized.

The programmatic approach is incomplete because it fails to use the only way to obtain true new water desalinization as a solution element. This is presumably discarded out of hand because of cost and economics without ever evaluating and comparing costs for storage and conveyance infrastructure and operating costs. A plan that is to be implemented over the next 30 -50 years must critically examine emerging technologies and integrate societal and environmental needs outside of its narrow project scope. Water is only in short supply when there are drought conditions during low flow periods. Desalinization plants would only be used at these times, thus limiting the operating costs. Power generation for facility operation could be generated by wave generators, differential temperature ocean generators or solar power generators. During the down times generated power could be sold to green power suppliers. By having the power generators on site line voltage loss would be eliminated. CALFED is also sitting on a money source. The existing canal conveyance systems could be covered and photovoltaic devices could be installed on the cover. This would save water by reducing evaporative loss and generate power without destroying a new land base. The covered water would provide a cooling source for the under side of the photovoltaic devices needed to achieve maximum electricity generation. It would also provide the needed scale to move us into the needed solar - hydrogen age. This is necessary to control carbon dioxide build up which will flood the proposed delta facilities if not corrected and to clean up air pollution from transportation vehicles. The latter is needed to provide the air quality space so that fire can be reintroduced into watersheds to reestablish and maintain healthy ecosystems, which then can provide optimal water production for the existing storage and delivery systems. The generated electricity could be used to power existing or new water delivery system components. This could be developed by

CALFED or leased to green power producers. The generated capital could be used as a funding source for project components and their operation.

This solution element should be integrated with a treated waste water delivery system for irrigation and landscape watering, crop land irrigation efficiency improvements, other conservation measures and upland watershed restoration measures that improve natural storage and provide delayed water release resulting in increased summer flows to produce a new programmatic Alternative.

If a canal system is still needed, serious analysis of the creation of an artificial watershed should be considered and evaluated. This system would use a collector network of small diversions from upstream sources for all watersheds feeding the central valley from the east and west sides. These would be joined until they feed into the main canal delivery systems. This would provide the maximum flexibility needed to protect fisheries and water quality both seasonally and yearly. This needs to be seriously evaluated as a real Alternative to the one or three intake proposal.

The above provide combinations that have not been considered, evaluated or used. They provide alternatives that are innovative and provide real solutions to the next centuries challenges. Only when CALFED produces such solutions will the public support a solution to the California water wars.

Sincerely,

Carl L. Weidert

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